

(Breakthrough, December 1986)

## **PATIENTS' REACTIONS TO HEMI-SYNC® TAPES**

*Submitted to Dr. Ed Levy*

*Dr. Ed Levy is a psychiatrist with a private practice in Topeka, Kansas.*

A well-educated woman in her mid-50's, very bright, married, with grown children:

"I like the Monroe tapes. They are not a panacea for other kinds of therapy, but they certainly are a useful therapeutic tool.

They have been particularly valuable to me in helping to overcome inhibitions and fears that interfere with my communication. I have had many splits in my life and I find that the tapes, with their flow of music, synchronization and utilization of both sides of the brain, nudge my conscious mind off guard, and offer me a tool to mend splits and to better integrate troublesome events in my life.

I am very sensitive to outside stimuli and am often overly aware of my therapist's thoughts, feelings and needs as a person. The tapes help me to draw boundaries and to utilize my therapist in an environment that seems comfortable to both of us.

I do think that it is important to have one's own therapist as a guide in these tapes, because a strange voice jars the conscious mind and forces alert observation, which may induce a negative response.

I think it would be useful to have a follow-up tape to check the progress of the first tape and to evaluate results in case of a need for more work in a particular area. This would help with misinterpretations and would represent caring on the part of the therapist, which would eliminate any feelings of intrusion. This follow-up could be accomplished in "talk-therapy" sessions, but to me, the work on the tapes represents a different medium and should be treated as such.

*Exploring #1, or Mission 10*, has certain crescendos and diminuendos that echo and seem to repeat words or phrases. I often use these places to insert a message to myself and with the right timing, the therapist could effectively reinforce certain messages of his own.

Transference presents a problem for me as it seems too real and I see the tape work as an alternative tool in exploratory therapy. After I had made the first tape, I had the feeling of having visited another planet. There I felt that I had met a trusted companion who had guided me through an experience. I never saw this companion, but because we were on another planet, I knew that I needed to make the most of our time together as it was limited. When the

tape was over I did not experience the feeling of loss that I sometimes feel after a difficult session. It was as if when we returned to earth, we became just two people who happened to be friends. There was no residue.

I would be interested in using the tapes more often, but it bothers me to pay extra for them. Partly, this is because I feel that therapy is expensive enough without adding to it, but it is also an idiosyncrasy of mine that I do not like to place monetary value on things that touch me. This may seem miserly and idealized, but on the other hand, my resistance may be a testimony to the tape's value."

A 57-year-old professional, married, children grown:

"The tapes have proved exceptionally useful in enabling me to attain and sustain a dream-like state in which I have been able to visualize and verbalize images and thoughts I do not have contact with at the fully conscious level. You have exploited this to advantage at several critical points in my treatment program over the past two and one-half years. Each time we have been able to explore with profit a new direction or a new facet uncovered or perceived in a new dimension with the aid of the tapes. On at least two occasions, the tape background has also provided a transport medium which has assisted in the dissipation of deep-seated but suppressed, negative emotions, with mild post-session exhilaration noted to be a short-lived effect. I believe the tape or tapes used contributed significantly to the beneficial effect of the induced semi-conscious state.

The tape you loaned which was intended to induce sleep kept me wide awake and hyperalert. Frankly, it gave me a feeling of being stalked by something or someone!

The *Concentration* tape has just that effect and I use it in occasion—not as often as I should—when going through technical literature. It produces pleasant effects —restful and mindease—which last after the tape is off. I can read on for another hour or so embraced by the mood and ambience established by the tape."

A 36-year-old teacher, above average intelligence, married:

"All is well and I am feeling fine. I contribute this to our work together. I feel I am on the right track with my life and looking forward to a healthy future.

Since school has started, my life seems to be in full swing. I am enjoying every minute of it. The people who bothered me in the past no longer do. I see them each as a person with his own unique personality and look and react to the positive. My family is fine. I have accepted my mother and sister as they are and I am trying to build a relationship based on the present and future—not the past. Daryl and I are experiencing a healthy relationship—our best in years.

The Monroe tapes helped me to experience my inner self and being. They put my mind in touch with every part of my being... that is, physical and spiritual. They are a means of total relaxation. You become in tune with nature and your total surroundings. Things appear to be fresher and have more value than they ever did before. People around you become more important and closer. I can go on for pages about their effect on my life, but to sum it up in one sentence, I would say—They help me to experience life in seeing, touching, smelling, loving, experiencing people and nature because I am a person with true worth and value that can give of myself and receive from others.

An afterthought—maybe you should say somewhere in your discussion of the tapes that they can have an intoxicating effect on the person after experiencing them. A recovery time of at least 30 minutes would be helpful. I know from my own experience of trying to drive a car right after a session. I was so “high” on how I felt and everything around me, I really didn’t remember driving home. Nothing serious happened, but there is a remote possibility that something could have happened to me or to someone else experiencing the same feelings I did.”

A woman, mid-20’s, bright, past history of mental hospitalizations:

“As you requested in your recent letter, I am writing you about the use of the Monroe tapes.

The tapes brought out a type of curiosity I have not experienced before. It was not doubt at all, but a hope. I suspected from the very beginning that there was no place for doubt or self-pity if the tape was to help.

The first taping allowed me to investigate the pain in my heart and mind and let it be met by a commitment to myself for the cessation of the suffering my mind was experiencing. Understanding is truly the ultimate seduction of the mind. This tape allowed me to go to the truth beyond the mind. There is so much of ourselves we wish not to experience. I had so much fear, guilt, anger, confusion and self-pity that was left with nowhere to go. I was barricading my heart and mind from everything... consequently I was alone in a “hostile” world.

The tape took all the negative, self-defeating thoughts somewhere else. Trigger points were less of a threat to me. When a conflict arose, the fear seemed to almost float away. It seems to me that my value system was no longer in conflict with the one my mind had created since the rape. Is it any wonder, considering the bizarre insistence of my conditioning, that I feel so incomplete, so torn.

I regret not being taught more. Our time was too short for me to get all you intended, and all I crave, still crave.

People, including myself, try so hard to protect themselves from who they fear they are. We dare not share our minds with anyone, even ourselves. We are so frightened of who we might be, of not being loved for the convolutions of our thoughts. It is hard to say if you (Dr. Levy) or a branch of the tapes helped me to learn I have nothing to fear if I understand. That is a bit simplified, yet accurate.”

*(Comment: I think this lady wanted to please me.)*

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